

Remarks

Claims 1 - 19 are pending. Favorable reconsideration is respectfully requested.

Claim 1 has been amended in view of ¶1 on page 2 of the Office Action to specify that the cured composite density is not more than 2000 kg/m³, consistent with the upper limit of 2000 kg/m³ on page 7 of the specification. Note that the units of density have been corrected from Kg/m² to Kg/m³. Page 5 of the specification has been amended to be consistent with a preferred range of 10 - 60 µm fiber diameter as set forth in claim 2. With respect to claim 7, the spelling of “percent” has been corrected, and the claim has also been amended to recite that the 1 to 3 volume percent of fibers is based on the cured composite weight, consistent with both claim 1 and page 5, last ¶ of the specification. The amendments to the claims and specification, the former being part of the latter, does not raise any issue of new matter. Withdrawal of the objection to the specification is solicited.

On page 2 ¶3 of the Office Action, claims 1 - 14 have been rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 112 ¶1. At page 5, lines 2 - 4, the fibers are described as matrix interactive. The definition of “matrix interactive” is given on page 6, first paragraph. Fibers which have little or no adhesion to the matrix are not suitable for use alone in the invention. Claim 1 has been amended to recite that the fibers used in amounts of 0.5 to 4 volume percent are matrix interactive fibers, as that term is defined in the specification. Examples of matrix interactive and non-matrix interactive fibers, as well as test methods for routinely determining whether a particular fiber is matrix interactive are also given on page 6. Withdrawal of the rejection of claims 1 - 14 under 35 U.S.C. § 112 ¶1 is solicited.


Claim 7 and 13 - 14 have been rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 112 ¶2. Claim 7 has been discussed previously. Claims 13 and 14 have been amended to recite “composition” rather than “composite”, and to further recite that the density and tensile strain limitations are

those of a cured composite prepared from the composition, consistent with the language of claim 1. Withdrawal of the 35 U.S.C. § 112 ¶2 rejections is solicited.

New claims 15 - 19 have been added to more particularly point out and distinctly claim certain aspects of the invention. Support for the volume percent limitation of claim 15 may be found on page 5, line 21 of the specification. Support for the mean particle size of light weight aggregate of claim 16 may be found in the specification on page 7, line 4. Support for the use of non-matrix interactive fibers (claim 18) and for the use of specific non-matrix interactive fibers (claim 18) may be found on page 5, lines 25 - 26 and page 6, lines 22 - 24, respectively. Support for the 30 - 60 μm limitation of the diameter of matrix interactive fibers of claim 19 may be found on page 5, line 27 of the specification. All the newly added claims are fully supported by the specification as filed, and thus raise no issue of new matter.

Applicants submit that the claims are now in condition for Allowance, and respectfully request a Notice to that effect. If the Examiner believes that further discussion will advance the prosecution of the Application, he is highly encouraged to telephone Applicants' attorney at the number given below.

Respectfully submitted,
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